The worst year for a hybridizer is the one he is in..

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Tip cuttings from small seedlings will often out-grow and bloom earlier than from the seedling roots. Take about four inch tips when plants are twelve inches tall; of course place under mist.

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Immediately after grafting, and until good formation of leaves on scion, protect plants from excessive watering. Heavy and continuous rains will drown understock bare of foliage.

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Certain members of the Hybridization committee for a number of years have been experimenting with various "soil-block" growing mediums, such as Fertyl-cubes, English Solo-Gro, Danish peat blocks, Jiffy-7, and the like. Results have been unsatisfactory as all apparently stay too wet for baby hibiscus, disintegrate, or have other failings. We are now trying another container distributed by the American Can Co., a cellulose and acrylonitrile polymer, which to date shows excellent results. When perfected, such containers will simplify the planting and initial growing of seedlings.

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Seedlings from miniature crosses show dwarf characteristics at an early age; delicate branches, small leaves. Earlier and more profuse bloom patterns can be expcted.

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Report diligent search to date without avail for any magic potion to retard or advance the birth on show Sunday of a choice bloom.

(Cont'd)

Hibiscus seedlings in full sun tend toward development of stocky, branched plants, with possibility of earlier bloom. Dense shade will definitely retard first bloom.

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Styrofoam cups (like those used at the shows to serve hot coffee) are being accepted as excellent pots for young seedlings. They are tough, sterile, cheap, and seem to create a fine root system. Sizes run from the regular 6-oz. coffee cup up to 32-oz.

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Baby seedlings burned down by damp-off will re-root easily under mist with only the embryo leaves, and form a superior fast-growing root system.

(Pic Thompson)

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Hybridizers might be divided into two classes: the quick and the dead. The quick are those who hear questions. Those who know the answers are dead.....

el fin, por Dios

-oOo-

NEW MEMBER?

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Welenc, Jr. are happy to announce the birth of their daughter #3 - Ruth Welenc. Born August 10, 1968. Weight six pounds seven ounces.

-oOo-

First hen: "Have you been giving that big red rooster any special encouragement?"
Second hen: "Oh, no, I just egg him on a little."

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Faith starts out as an experiment and winds up as an experience.